

PH 0683544
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 7 1978
DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1978
DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Coral Gables Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON
same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3010 DeSoto Boulevard
CITY, TOWN Coral Gables VICINITY OF 15
STATE Florida COUNTY Dade CODE 025

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees, Coral Gables Congregational Church

STREET & NUMBER 3010 DeSoto Boulevard

CITY, TOWN Coral Gables VICINITY OF Florida STATE 33134

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Miami STATE Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Florida Historic Sites Survey, Miami-Dade

DATE 1972
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Division of Archives, History and Records Management
CITY, TOWN Tallahassee STATE Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coral Gables Congregational Church is executed in the Mediterranean Revival style. It is a masonry building with stucco finish and a tile roof. The interior is also stuccoed and has iron lighting fixtures donated by Mr. Merrick which he purchased in Spain. The original church furniture is in place. There are no transepts or chancel, however a semi-circular apse does exist at the north end of the nave; this has a coffered semidome.

Unlike the typical East-West orientation of church structures, the Coral Gables Congregational Church has a North-South axis. The south (entrance) facade faces Malaga Boulevard and the doorway is its most conspicuous feature. This is heavily sculptured with each successive tier breaking forward and closing in on the opening itself. The most recessed elements are banded pilasters with entablature including a pulvinated frieze. The next element is again a pilaster, only the leading edge of which is expressed. Anterior to this is half of an engaged column or a quarter round carrying the same entablature. Again breaking forward is another leading edge of a pilaster. All of the preceding elements terminate in the dog-eared doorway proper. Above this and serving as the tympanum for the succeeding entablatures, the cornices of which rise in an arc to form a broken pediment, is a heavily sculptured foliate design with the central element of a crown. Where the crown breaks the cornice, a cross is superimposed with a shell backdrop. Flanking the crown/cross/shell motif are scrolls bearing finials. Above this is a second design which is posterior to the crown, cross and shell and interior to the scroll and finial. This consists of a window in the shape of the complex of square and quatrefoil which has circumscribed and crossed banding. Above this is another broken pediment with a curve the reverse of that above the door. The break is expressed by scrolls and a central console which bears a finial of the same design but larger than those below. Surmounting the entire composition and resting on the parapet of the south gable end is a bellcote.

From the perspective of Malaga Boulevard later additions on the north appear as one story transepts although they do not function as such. They are appropriate in scale, design and materials to the main structure.

The facade elements on the north are one story stucco buildings with tile roofs which, although later additions, bear a resemblance to village buildings clustered around the central church tower. The square tower is the main element of the entire composition. It is about three times the height of the nave roof ridge. Occasional windows irregularly punctuate the tower for approximately 2/3 of its

(See Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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height. There is then a band which expresses the termination of the base. Breaking the band on each facade are French doors with balconies, above which there are broken curvilinear pediments. The break is scrolled and has a central console supporting an urn.

The tile-roofed belfry which continues above the tower is its most imposing element. The belfry's openings are surrounded by pilasters without capitals which have foliate trophies in the frieze of the entablature which they carry. The robust cornice of this entablature carries a broken pediment which reflects the curve, scrolls and console of the second floor window treatment on the south facade. Serving to connect the pilasters on each elevation are half-engaged columns, quarter round in section, bearing the same foliate trophies and entablature.

The east and west (side) elevations are essentially the same. The aisles of the nave are expressed on the exterior and are arcaded with triplet openings. These have columns with a variant of composite capitals and a cornice of modillions set vertically. The clerestory is expressed with six small circular regularly spaced windows. At the south end of each side is a double doorway with tiled hood on heavy wood brackets.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Kiehnel & Elliott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coral Gables Congregational Church was the first church building erected in the city. The organization was founded on December 19, 1923 and construction on the building was begun in the following year. The dedication ceremony was held April 5, 1925. In large measure the present edifice is the result of the efforts of George Merrick, founder of Coral Gables. Merrick's father, who was a Congregational minister, had owned the Coral Gables tract and interested his son in its development. After the son purchased additional ground, and subdivided the area, he donated the ground on which the church stands to the newly formed Coral Gables Congregational Church of which he was a charter member.

Architecturally, the church reflects Merrick's scheme for Coral Gables. It was Merrick who planned a Mediterranean Revival community with focal points of the Douglas Entrance (National Register) and the Miami-Biltmore (National Register). Within the community were numerous large-scale Mediterranean Revival homes, a golf course and clubhouse and the Venetian Pool. In design the Coral Gables Congregational Church reflects the Miami-Biltmore which rises across the park to the South, and on a smaller scale maintains the basal solidity and vertical tower.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beach, Rex E. The Miracle of Coral Gables. 1926.
 Coral Gables Congregational Church. Scribes Records, 1923-4.
 _____ . Scrapbooks, 1923-1974.
 (See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>72</u> <u>13</u> <u>20</u>	<u>28</u> <u>14</u> <u>7</u> <u>20</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that parcel of ground described as Lots 1 to 4, Block 14 of the Country Club Section I, being the block surrounded by Columbus, Catalonia, DeSoto and Malaga Boulevard.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth B. Monroe, Historic Sites Specialist 1/30/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives, History and Records Management (904) 487-2333

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Department of State, The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32304

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

DATE 8-21-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST <u>William Levarich</u>	DATE <u>10/10/78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>Oct 4, 1978</u>

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Muir, Helen. Miami, U.S.A. Coconut Grove, Florida: Hurricane House Publishers, Inc., 1953.

Occasional Pamphlets, Coral Gables Congregational Church, 1952, 1957, 1967.

Reidt, Mrs. Charles. Church History. 1973.

Weigall, Theodore H. Boom in Paradise. New York: Alfred H. King, 1932.